THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Hon'ble Supreme Court had imposed ban on felling of trees in all forests where working plans are not approved by the Government of India as well as ban on transport of timber from seven (07) North Eastern States to the rest of the country vide their interim order dated 12th December, 1996. As bamboo is defined as a tree and cut tree is classified as timber under Indian Forest Act 1927, certain States had banned felling of bamboo and also its. transportation. However, Supreme Court in its revised order dated 4th March, 1997 clarified that directions issued vide their interim order dated 12.12.96 are not applicable to minor forest produce including bamboo.

(c) to (f) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

[Translation]

Export activities of various Institutions

6606. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of activities of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Export Promotion Council,

India Trade Promotion Organisation and Free Trade Zone working under his Ministry during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether the above institutions have been successful in achieving their objectives;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the financial position of the above institutions during the above period, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The main activities of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC) are to provide adequate export credit insurance cover to exporters, export credit guarantee to banks and investment insurance to Indian Investors with the objective to encourage and accelerate India's export performance.

The main activities of Export Promotion Councils falling under the purview of the Ministry of Commerce are to provide commercially useful information and assistance; offer professional advice in areas such as technology upgradation, quality and design improvement standards and specifications, product development, innovation, etc.; organise visits of delegations to explore overseas market opportunities; participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and buyer-seller meets in India and abroad; promote interaction between the exporting community and the Government; and to provide statistical information on trade.

The main activities of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) are to organise trade fairs in India and Indian exhibitions abroad as also buyer-seller meets.

The main activities of Free Trade Zones which in Indian context are termed as Export Processing Zones (EPZs) are to earn foreign exchange through promotion of export oriented industries for which these zones offer basic infrastructural facilities such as ready-built factory premises, development land for construction of factory sheds and other facilities such as power, water, sewerage.

(b) These institutions have been broadly successful in achieving their main objectives.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As is evident from the details of the activities of the organisations mentioned in Part (a) of the reply, these organisations are basically service organisations and profit making is not the objective of these organisations. Therefore, their performance cannot be judged from financial parameters alone. Moreover, EPZs, are totally Government organisations and their budget is fully met by Government's budgetary allocation. The performance of these EPZs can be considered to be quite satisfactory because the bulk of their budgetary allocation is used for creation of capital infrastracture for export production.

As regard other organisations, their financial performance have been broadly found to be satisfactory with majority of these organisations showing excess income over expenditure.

[English]

Employees of PSUs

6607. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees in all the public sector industrial units as on March, 31, 1997, PSU-wise;

(b) whether there has been decline in the number of employees in these industrial units despite increase in capital investment made therein between 1991 to 1997;